

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 1 to read as follows:

*A1
cancel*
This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number ~~08/074,851~~ 09/074,851, now US Patent No. 6,321,384, having a filing date of May 8, 1998, entitled "Noise reduction in cable return paths", which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/347,573, filed on November 30, 1994, now abandoned.

Please amend the paragraph beginning line 11 of page 15 to read as follows:

*A2
cancel*
FIG. 9 illustrates an exemplary time/frequency map 900. In the exemplary case of FIG. 9, the ingress events are monitored over a pre-determined period of time and the results of the monitoring are represented in a matrix format on the map 900. As shown in FIG. 9, the time frames (N time frames) are tracked on the horizontal axis and the various frequency bands (K frequency bands) are tracked on the vertical axis. In this exemplary case each of the frequency bands and each of the time frames has a predetermined width.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 15 to read as follows:

*A3
cancel*
For each time frame, the PSD of the signal is obtained and the frequency bands having a signal power above the detection threshold are given an integer value 1. The presence of a "1" indicates the detection of a signal above the detection threshold. Over a window of M time frames a map as shown in FIG. 9 can be obtained. Furthermore, a cumulative sum 920 over the K frequency bands at time frame n (CSF_n) may be computed. Additionally, a cumulative sum 910 over the N time frames at frequency band k (CST_k) may also be computed. The CSF_n and CST_k may then be used to distinguish a narrowband ingress event from a wideband ingress event. In particular, a narrowband ingress event is declared when the CST_k exceeds a threshold, for example, S_{nb} and, a wideband ingress event is declared when CSF_n exceeds a threshold, for example, S_{wb} . The principles of the present invention are flexible and different values of threshold may

A3
cancel

be used. A user may select suitable threshold values based on the application/system in use.